



The Fly is This Month's Fly of the Month - Photo Courtesy of [www. SmallStreamReflections.com](http://www.SmallStreamReflections.com)

## *Clearwater Currents*

The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter  
of  
Trout Unlimited

169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110

Issue No. 11-08

September, 2011



*America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation  
Organization*

*Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon*

# *Trout Unlimited Has Been Fighting for Coldwater Fisheries Conservation for 52 Years*

**Join us** before each meeting at 6:30pm for a tying demonstration. Meetings begin at 7:30pm, the third Monday of each month (except Banquet month, July and August), at the Best Western on Western Avenue, Albany, NY (about a mile east of the end of the Northway).

## **Upcoming Events**

September 19 Chapter General Meeting – **Joe Goodspeed** – Cortland Line Company speaking on “Tailwater Nymphing Tricks” – admission is free – fly tier at 6:30 with guest speaker at 7:30

September 30 New York State Fishing Licenses Expire – Time To Renew

October 15 New York State General Trout Fishing Season Ends – Special Regs Only

## **Board of Directors/Staff**

President	Mike Walchko	234-4192	Trips	Bob Mead	399-9000
V President			Treasurer	Ken Waldie	573-4793
Conservation	Roy Lamberton	872-2217	Newsletter	Mark A Brown	<a href="mailto:brownie6@nycap.rr.com">brownie6@nycap.rr.com</a>
Education	Rich Borgardus	377-1022	Ex-Oficio	Doug Howard	399-8566
Secretary	Brad Mohr	482-4645	Youth	Bart Chabot	393-9918
Stream Research	Art Coleman	399-5550	Programs	Heath Clayson	573-6008
Quartermaster	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405	Flea Market	Bob Mead	399-9000
Schoharie	Ed August	295-7663	Membership	John Morrette	393-6443
Trout/Classroom	Stan Duncan	877-6610	Membership	Dick Hermida	399-6272
Video Library	Richard Atkinson	377-8249	Youth	Mike Walchko	234-4192
Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Jessica Galasso	716-913-5550
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
Website	Bill Wemple	384-0014	Publicity	Bill Wemple	384-0014

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309  
[www.ClearwaterTU.org](http://www.ClearwaterTU.org)

## September 2011 Chapter General Meeting

The speaker for this month's meeting will be **Joe Goodspeed** from the Cortland Line Company who will talk on "Tailwater Nymphing Tricks." It will include conversation on fishing pressure and how it affects selectivity and changes behavior of Wild Trout. Energy expenditure theory, stomach samples, pattern selection, rigging techniques for the entire water column and nymphing gear will all be addressed.

Bio: Joe is 26, living in Ithaca but originally from the Saratoga/Capital District area; a former All American High Jumper and track coach, Joe is currently the fly line and product design coordinate for Cortland Line Co. He cut his teeth fly fishing on western tailwaters, spending more than 365 days on Rocky Mountain tailwaters by age 21 thanks to his father's generous summer camping vacations. Formerly a diehard dry fly angler, Joe now spends far more time nymphing -- about 225 days or partial days on the water right at current count, with the vast majority of that time spent chasing Trout, Steelhead and Atlantic Salmon.

All are welcome. Meetings are held at the [Best Western Sovereign Hotel](#) about a mile east of the end of the Northway (I-87). We start with a guest fly tier at 6:30pm and our presentation begins about an hour later.

Admission to our meetings is free and public is always invited, so please bring a friend(s) and meet with many of the local 'expert' Fly Fishers, Fly Tiers, and Conservationists.

## Chapter Fly Swap

Ron Boutin

Another year of fly swapping is over, but it starts all over again at the Chapter meeting in April. Bring in 13 of the current months category and get 13 back of the same category from other tiers in the Chapter. It's a great way to build your fly boxes and try some new flies. New ideas are always welcome as to what you want swapped so call me at 453-9843 or email me at [rx4fishing@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rx4fishing@nycap.rr.com) if you have further questions or ideas.

Sept	Isonychia
Oct	Attractor flies
Nov	Streamers
Dec	Salmon/Steelhead

## Fish of the Month 2011 Contest in Full Gear

Mark A Brown

The Chapter's Fish of the Month Contest is already in its fourth year having crowned **Noe Mead**, **Jim Berry** and **Bill Bach** as winners in its first three years. The contest is open to all members (except me!) and the children of the Chapter and is not necessarily based on the biggest fish, but the quality of the fish, story behind it and picture quality all make up a winning entry. Simply send a photograph to me at my email address at [brownie6@nycap.rr.com](mailto:brownie6@nycap.rr.com) or contact me for my mailing address if you have a Polaroid or 35mm shot. As the entries come I'll publish them in the newsletter and select a winner in December when the winner will get a dozen hand tied flies as a prize.

[There were no entries submitted to me since summer has ended so only a few more months to go until we crown a new winner. Plenty of time to catch a trophy to win it all!](#)

## SADDLE HACKLE WANTED

**Will pay top dollar (up to \$1.00 per feather for long grizzly hackles in top condition, but others wanted as well) for your used or unused saddles. Call 518-885-6557 and leave message.**

Edward Michaels  
518-885-6557

## New Maps for Places to Fish in North-Central NY Available.

Thirteen new maps have been added to the North-Central New York Public Fishing Rights (PEF) Maps web page. These new maps will help guide anglers to trout fishing streams throughout DEC's Region 6, covering Herkimer, Lewis, Oneida, St. Lawrence, and Jefferson Counties. These areas called Public Fishing Rights (PFRs) are permanent easements purchased by the DEC from willing landowners, giving anglers the right to fish along stream banks on the landowner's property. Visit our PFR Maps webpage to find other available PFR locations in the State.

## Call for Articles for NYS TU Newsletter

My name is **Russ Shefrin**, and I am the editor of the newsletter for the Western New York chapter of Trout Unlimited. New York State Council Chair, **Dee Maciejewski**, has kindly asked me if I would edit the next edition of "Long Cast", the newsletter for New York State TU. I have agreed to give it a go but would like your assistance. In order to make the publication interesting to our state-wide membership, I would be interested in input from as many of our state officers, committee chairs, and chapter presidents as possible.

The exact format of the next newsletter has not yet been determined. However, I am thinking about incorporating articles on such topics as:

- Brief summaries of notable projects recently undertaken by local chapters.
- Cold water fisheries conservation, its science, politics, etc.
- Thoughts on trout fishing tactics specific to NYS waters.
- Memorable on-stream experiences.
- Facts about our trout populations that enhance understanding of them.
- Special recognition received by state TU members.

I am also considering adding more photos to the newsletter. However, I do not yet know about the practicality of this idea, nor is it yet clear just how restrictive will be the space limitations.

At this time, we are hoping to publish the next "Long Casts" in November. Here you come in. Would you like to prepare an article on any of the above topics? Do you have suggestions on additional subject matter that ought to be included in the newsletter? Please e-mail me a response in the next month or so. It is not necessary to have a finished article submitted by then, but I would like to get some idea of what I might have to work with for the next newsletter.

Thanks for your contribution to TU, and I look forward to hearing from you. Incidentally, if you are wondering about the way this e-mail is addressed (i.e., to myself), here's the explanation: The message is being sent to current New York State Trout Unlimited Chapter Presidents. (A similar e-mail was sent to NYSCTU Officers and Committee Chairs.) However, it is being done in such a way that your individual e-mail addresses are not visible to other recipients. You have all been "blind carbon copied". I have this thing about e-mail privacy.

Sincerely, **Russ Shefrin**, Long Cast Editor

## Job Opening - Ausable River Association

P.O. Box 217

Elizabethtown, NY 12932

[www.ausableriver.org](http://www.ausableriver.org); email: [info@ausableriver.org](mailto:info@ausableriver.org)

**Position Title:** Executive Director

**Status:** Full-Time

**Start Date:** October 1, 2011 or soon thereafter

**Salary:** \$25,000 - \$35,000, commensurate with experience

**About Us:** The Ausable River Association (AsRA) is a nonprofit organization that works cooperatively with landowners, municipalities, and government agencies to protect the wild, scenic, and recreational resources of the Ausable River watershed. The Ausable River is nationally and internationally known for its trout fishery, spectacular scenery, and exceptional recreational opportunities such as white-water kayaking and skiing. Protecting the river from current threats and restoring its natural balance is an ongoing challenge and AsRA has been stewarding the river and its watershed since 1998. A small, professional staff, dedicated volunteer board, and numerous volunteers work to address threats to water quality and river ecology through education, advocacy, and by implementing effective restoration, monitoring, and stewardship projects. Find us at: [www.ausableriver.org](http://www.ausableriver.org) and on Facebook. AsRA is an equal opportunity employer.

**Executive Director Responsibilities:** The Executive Director (ED) is the lead staff person and chief strategist for the organization. He or she is charged with implementing the mission and goals of AsRA as well as undertaking and overseeing all aspects of a non-profit, grassroots organization, including, but not limited to, fundraising and fiscal management, advocacy and education, program management inclusive of river restoration projects, and publishing. The ED reports to and supports a currently nine-member board and oversees one staff position.

**AsRA seeks an energetic and personable individual with the following skills:**

- Knowledge of river and watershed science and ability to implement and/or oversee projects
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work cooperatively with a wide range of people with diverse backgrounds and interests in the river
- Proficiency with word processing, spreadsheets, publishing, and database software
- Strong accounting, fund raising, and grant management skills
- Familiarity with web sites and social media outreach
- Self-motivated with an ability to multi-task
  - Passion for the Ausable River watershed

**Qualifications:**

- Experience in program management or leadership of a non-profit organization or comparable experience.
- BS or BA in the physical sciences; an advanced degree in a related field is encouraged.

**To Apply:**

Submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references by email to: [info@ausableriver.org](mailto:info@ausableriver.org) Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. First review of applications will begin September 7, 2011.

## Battenkill Report – Post Hurrican Irene and Tropical Storm

I met today with **Ken Cox (VFWD)**, **Dan McKinley (GMNF)**, **Scott Wixsom (GMNF)**, and **Fred Nicholson (VT Stream Alteration Engineer)**. We discussed the events and the question of talking points or lessons learned, I will get back to you with more about that later. After our meeting I went to visit Camping on the Battenkill and the Hale Dam with Fred Nicholson and then he went on to Roaring Branch/**Kelly Stand** and I caught up with the fishery guys.

Below are just quick summaries of what was found/recommended.

The fishery experts found that the cover and shelter structures that we have been installing for a number of years are substantially intact, and may have functioned to provide protection from the flood for the trout. The main stem of the Batten Kill flooded up into its flood plain as it could be expected to do, and the riparian buffer of trees and bushes that covers much of its banks helped to prevent erosion or channel cutting. The insect and trout populations will have experienced an impact from the flooding, but both populations should recover because the habitat is not particularly damaged or degraded by the event.

At Camping on the Battenkill the landowners on either side of the Branch near the confluence with the Kill are concerned that the base level of the streambed is so built up with stones that if there is ice or debris coming down the Branch over the winter it will easily and inevitably inundate them again. Fred Nicholson confirmed that the depth of the current winding channel is not enough to create the force of current that can move sediment and debris in an effective way. This would tend to result in jams and flooding and the cutting of new channels until after a period of years the river created a deep enough main channel winding through the cobble bars and the flood plain. He said that if we wanted to essentially create the end result of a deeper winding channel now, that could be done. We could get the right measurements to calculate how wide and deep it should be, and excavate it. Material removed could be used to fill eroded areas in the campground or removed for gravel production as appropriate. It could not be used to make berms.

So that gives the landowners some guidance if they want to do more work. It would also give the Alliance a structure if we wanted to do something that would benefit the river dynamics and the landowners. I am asking for Shannon Pytliks guidance about this.

Since I wrote the above I have gotten a copy of what **Ken Cox** sent to a reporter about yesterday's site visits. It is below.

### **Cynthia Browning**

From **Ken Cox**:

"Yesterday, **Dan MacKinley**, **Scott Wixsom** (both with the U.S. Forest Service, Green Mountain National Forest) and I inspected the lower Batten Kill which I define here as the VT 313 bridge by the Arlington recreation field downstream to the NY state line. Even though the river overtopped its banks inundating numerous locations throughout its floodplain, the river came through remarkably unscathed. Very little new bank erosion has occurred, most of the large wood habitat structures installed into the river since 2006 remain in place, and the riparian woodlands are intact. Overall conditions remain pretty much as they were prior to the flood, and we were unanimous in our conclusion that it is extremely unlikely that the recovering trout population experienced any setback as a result of the flood. If there is anything good to be said for the timing of Irene with respect to trout populations is that it occurred before the spawning season and the river substrate is loose and not overburdened with sediments. So, the prognosis for spawning and egg incubation success looks good pending "normal" winter and spring river conditions.

Being that the majority of habitat structures weathered this record flood event, we do not see any need to change their design and placement. There is no evidence that any of the large wood placed in the river resulted or

contributed to damage to private property, roads and bridges. No doubt Irene caused much debris flow but most of this material appears to have originated from the Roaring Branch and Kelly Road washout. The new concrete arch bridge that replaced two old undersized culverts on Benedict Hollow Brook and designed to provide trout access to spawning habitat came through the flood fine and conducted water and any debris downstream without incident.

Dan, Scott and I attribute the ability of the Kill to come through the flood event so well to so much of the flood plain continuing to be accessible river overflow which allows the river to lose power that can be destructive to transportation infrastructure, personal property and stream and riparian habitat. Furthermore, much of the upper river flows through wetlands that have the ability to dissipate hydraulic energy, store water and capture excessive debris and sediments. Where trees remain on the river banks (which are the case throughout much of the river's length) banks are held in place minimizing erosion and large debris is retained within the river corridor."

**Fly of the Month:** Ausable Bomber by Fran Betters

Of all the flies created by Fran this one might stick out as the forgotten one. It arguably sits behind the Ausable Wulff, Haystack, Usual and maybe others. Leave home without it in pursuit of Adirondack trout and you may have made a major mistake. Easy to tie, see and durable this one is a must for your fly box. Hook: dry fly hook, 8-16; Tail: woodchuck fibers; Wing: white calf tail tied in leaning towards eye; Body: orang/rust dubbing fur; Hackle: grizzly palmered the full length. Start by mounting the hook and then tying in a sparse tail. Wrap the thread forward and stop about a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way back from the eye. At this point tie in a sparse white calf tail wing that leans toward the eye. Wrap the thread to the eye where you should tie in the grizzly hackle. Once tied in wrap the thread to the bend of the hook and bring the dubbing forward to the eye. Wrap the grizzly hackle over the body towards the bend and back again. Tie off and enjoy.

